

Monthly Update
July 2012

I. Overview (Tommy)

1. Key achievements: July 2012

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2. Key activities proposed: August 2012

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II. Achievements: July 2012

1. Management, Student and Staff Relations (Tommy)

- 2 July: Hosted a workshop on Estuarine Monitoring – New approaches and lessons learnt at the South African Society for Aquatic Scientists (SASAQs) Conference, St Francis Bay.
- 2 July: Launched the SAEIS database at the South African Society for Aquatic Scientists (SASAQs) Conference, St Francis Bay.
- 2 July: Three new DST/NRF interns started their 1 year internships at Elwandle, namely Mr Nick Ridden (Marine Ecology), Ms Ntandokazi Mandela (GIS and databases) and Mr Athi Mfikili (GIS and databases).
- 9 July: Staff meeting
- 11 – 13 July: Head Office visit by Johan Pauw, Beate Holscher and Punyezwa Chitambala to the Elwandle Node.
- 12 July: SAEON 10 year anniversary celebrations at Elwandle, Grahamstown.

2. Monitoring Platforms

a. Algoa Bay LTMRP (Shaun & Sean)

- 19 July: Retrieved data from Gully probes at Kenton, Cannon Rocks, Cape Padrone, Woody Cape & Thyspunt.
- 28 June: serviced 80m Bird Island string.

b. St Francis Bay LTMRP (Shaun & Sean)

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c. Estuaries LTMRP (Shaun & Alexis)

- Serviced Kromme Estuary loggers on the 26th July along with water quality. Data sent to Tommy.

d. Mosselbay LTMRP

3. Marine Protected Areas (Ali)

- 14 – 19 July 2012: Tsitsikamma National Park (TNP) fieldtrip: research fishing – SAEON & DIFS.
- 23 – 26 July 2012: TNP fieldtrip: ROV, diving, BRUV – SAEON, DIFS & Zoology.
- 5 July 2012 ROV trials off uKwabelana in Port Elizabeth Harbor
- 26 July 2012 Transfer of uKwabelana from TNP to Port Elizabeth

4. Data Management (Shaun & Bruce)

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5. Education (Nozi)

- 2nd-4th July: Successful grade 10 camp held at Assegai trails. Sibongile, from national office was present and Nonceba Mhlauli, a communication intern at SAIAB, was invited as a role model. Nonceba also wrote an article which will be published on SAEON's website.
- Due to excessively strong winds, the anemometer at Nombulelo and Ntsika High schools were blown off and need to be replaced. Downloading at the remaining 3 schools has proceeded smoothly, with no problems reported.

6. Parataxonomy Laboratory (Shaun & Bruce)

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7. Technical: CMP Maintenance/SCUBA Diving/Boating (Sean & Shaun)

- Honckenii to be sent to Tunstead Marine for fitment of false transom.
- Honckenii seaworthy is due on the 28th August.
- Honckenii trailer license due at the end of August.
- St Lucia moorings have been received.
- Still waiting for the final moored CTD cages from Lee Cat – have followed up and will receive them soon.
- Navara due for 30 000km service during second week of August.

8. Stakeholder Relations

a. Joint ACEP Marine Platform Operations (Ryan Palmer)

- uKwabelana was used for a fish collection trip for two microbiology honours projects from the University of Fort Hare as part of the ACEP Puhlisa programme.

- A successful ROV trip to Tsitsikamma National Park was also completed for Elodie Heyns's PhD. Video, still photos and invertebrate collections were done using the manipulator arm and the new camera and light.
- ACEP acquired a new gravity corer for collecting sediment cores from the seabed. This was taken out in Algoa Bay for a trial run. A second trial is planned for early August before taking students out to collect samples for their geology honours projects.
- Due to poor weather conditions allowing for few workable days at sea, and the high demand on uKwabelana ACEP chartered a vessel from Raggie Charters to provide a platform for the SAEON plankton run and the ACEP shark tagging project. Both trips were successful.
- A trip was done up the Swartkops Estuary to collect water samples for a microbiology honours student from University of Fort Hare. This was a part of the ACEP Puhlisa programme.

b. SAIAB-ACEP/SAEON/UFH/WSU Collaboration (Shaun & Garth)

- Alexis Olds: Attended Swartkops sampling trip with Anna Clarke.

III. Proposed Activities: August 2012

1. Scheduled appointments (All)

Tommy

- 2 August: DST National Science Week Public Presentations at BayWorld, Port Elizabeth. SAEON presentation title: Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) in Algoa Bay and associated estuaries.
- 2 – 3 August: Kromme Estuary episodic sampling.
- 6 August: Meeting with Prof Martin Hill to expand parataxonomy laboratory.
- 7 August: Ocean Acidification meeting with ASCLME and CSIR in Grahamstown.
- 24 August: Algoa Bay Pelagic Ecosystem workshop at NMMU, Port Elizabeth.

2. Monitoring Platforms and CMP Maintenance (Shaun, Sean, Alexis)

- Kromme, Sundays and Swartkops Estuary loggers to be placed and serviced.
- Shaun and Alexis to monitor Kromme Estuary flow.
- Alexis: Inland skippers course 11 August.
- Alexis: Orange Estuary field trip, 20-24 August.
- Plan to service Safeway and Bell buoy loggers as well as UTR's: 80m bay mouth, 60m Central, Bird Island (BI) inner and BI outer in July.
- Further deployments need to take place at St. Lucia.
- Service ADCP.

3. Marine Protected Areas (Ali)

- Data exploration Denham Parker's PhD.
- Write proposals for Anthony Bernard's Post-doc.

4. Data Management (Shaun & Bruce)

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5. Education (Nozi)

- 27th July: A planning meeting for Port Alfred outreach was held at Rhodes. In attendance at meeting was Nozi, Dr Anusha Ra, a lecturer at Rhodes University's Botany Department and Amanda Hlengwa co-ordinator of community engagement.
- 13 - 17 August: Nozi will participate in a collaborative education outreach with Rhodes to Kuyasa Combined School in Port Alfred.
- Preparations for the Grade 11 camp in September are on-going.